

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros Children's Day/Book Day

April 24, 2013

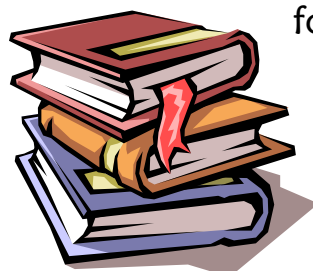
Greetings! / Saludos!

On April 30th, I invite you to join WTBBL in celebrating “El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros!” This is a very special day also known as Children’s Day & Book Day. Since 1925, the special festival of Children’s Day was celebrated yearly across the globe, and many Latin American countries selected April 30th to be their Children’s Day holiday.

However, in 1996, an American poet named Pat Mora realized that there was not a similar holiday in the United States. In 1997, she worked to create this new holiday and join the celebration of children with the celebration of literacy and bilingualism. Later that year, many libraries began offering events and programs to celebrate “Día”!



Now, Día is a holiday recognized across the nation and includes celebrations of all cultures and languages. Reading is extremely important for children of all backgrounds, but it is equally important for children to read about cultures, languages, and countries outside their own.



Here at WTBBL, we want to celebrate Día with you! In this packet, we’ve included more information about Día, English & Spanish vocabulary, easy recipes, a fun activity, and of course, a reading guide. Día is all about celebrating children like you and reading with family and friends. You can request a book from WTBBL to read on this very special day!

We want to know what you’ll be reading on Día, so call us for a book request or email the title of the book you’ve selected. Take pictures of yourself reading, and share the title with us via email or on our Facebook page. We love to hear from you!

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Also, don't forget that the Summer Reading Program is coming up soon, so if you'd like to receive packets like this one during the summer, sign up! Registration is open, so visit the WTBBL website to fill out a registration form.



Finally, contact me at the email or phone number below to receive this entire packet in braille or Spanish.

Have a wonderful spring and happy Día!

Celebrate!/ ¡Celebremos!

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

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www.wtbbl.org | [Facebook.com/WTBBL](https://www.facebook.com/WTBBL)

Why is Día special?

Día is a very special day because it celebrates literacy and reading for children from all backgrounds. On this day, we recognize that learning and reading are important for all children, and that children need books, stories, and libraries to help them on their learning journey. Día is a way to recognize and respect culture, heritage, and language within our communities. A celebration of Día is incomplete without the traditional festival and carnival games, activities and especially, foods of “El día de los niños” but the celebration should also include reading as another fun activity for kids to do on this special day.



However, Día is not just a one-day celebration, but part of the yearly promise by libraries, schools, and other places to make sure that children and their families can read diverse books about and experience languages and cultures beyond their own.

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros

Children's Day/Book Day

English & Spanish Vocabulary:

- día = day
- niños = children
- libros = books
- the library = la biblioteca
- celebration = celebración
- party = partido
- my family = mi familia
- fun = diversión
- raspados = colorful shaved ice, served in paper cones
- fruta con chile = slices of fruit with chili powder
- churritos con chile = fried flour snacks with salsa

Websites:

1. El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) from the American Library Association. Learn about the history of Día, find events, activities, games, and resources to celebrate this special day.
<http://dia.ala.org/>
2. Find an “El día de los niños/El día de los libros” event in Washington State from the American Library Association. Many schools and libraries across the country hold their own Día celebrations, so find one close to you!
<http://cs.ala.org/websurvey/alsc/dia/results2.cfm?state=wa>
3. What's Día? From founder Pat Mora. An explanation of El día de los niños/El día de los libros from Pat Mora.
<http://www.patmora.com/whats-dia/>
4. Día Song: A recording of the Día Song as written by Pat Mora.
<http://www.patmora.com/dia-song/>
5. “El día de los niños” activities from the National Latino Children's Institute. Have fun celebrating by adapting these activities and suggestions. <http://www.nlci.org/El-Dia-de-Los-Ninos/Activities.html>

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros Children's Day/Book Day

Día Song for April 30th:

This is the day of the children,
los niños, the children.

This is the day of the children
the children and their books.

El día de los niños: El día de los
libros,
the day of children and their books,
ta-lán, ta-lán, tan-tán, ta-lán,
los niños and their books.

Celebrate with piñatas
and musica de colores,
add the papel picado
and baskets and baskets of books,
Silly and sad, scary and glad,
baskets of delicious books.



Read to a
favorite
person,

read to lizards and cats,
read to the moon humming a tune
as you read from your baskets of
books.

El día de los niños: El día de los
libros,
the day of children and their books,
ta-lán, ta-lán, tan-tán, ta-lán,
the children and their books.

This is a song that keeps growing,
in Chinese or Navajo too,
so add your verse and sing along,
on this day of children and books.

El día de los niños: El día de los
libros,
the day of children and their books,
ta-lán, ta-lán, tan-tán, ta-lán,
los niños and their books.

Pat Mora, March 1998

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros

Children's Day/Book Day

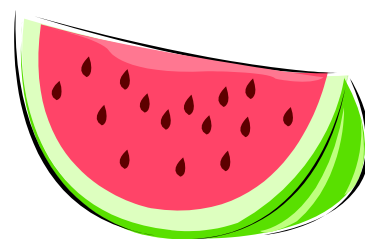
Recipe: Aqua Fresca

On *El día de los niños/El día de los libros*, take a moment to enjoy a special, refreshing drink called *aqua fresca* meaning fresh water. *Aqua fresca* is a traditional drink served in Mexico and all over Latin America, and made from water, fruit, sugar, herbs or spices and sometimes even grains or seeds! Here are a few *aqua fresca* recipes to try!

Watermelon Aqua Fresca

Ingredients

- 8 cups cubed seeded watermelon (about 6 pounds with the rind), divided
- 1 cup water, divided
- 1/3 cup sugar, divided
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 liter (4 cups) club soda or seltzer water, well chilled
- Lime slices for garnish

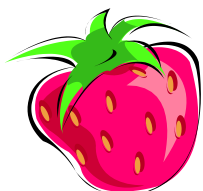


Directions

1. Combine half the watermelon, half the water and half the sugar in a blender; puree. Pour through a coarse strainer into a large container. Repeat with the remaining watermelon, water and sugar. Stir in lime juice. Refrigerate until well chilled, about 4 hours.
2. To serve, stir in club soda (or seltzer) and garnish with lime.

Strawberry Agua Fresca

Ingredients



- 1 pound strawberries, stemmed, hulled, and coarsely chopped
- 4 cups water or soda water
- 1/4 cup sugar

Directions

1. Puree strawberries in a blender.
2. Combine the water and sugar in a large pitcher. Stir until sugar dissolves. Pour in strawberry puree and stir to combine. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours. Stir before serving.

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Activity: Papel Cortado Craft

Papel picado (punched paper) is a Mexican popular art form with roots in the country's ancient cultures. The Aztecs used the bark of wild mulberry and fig trees to make a rough paper called *amatl*. *Amatl* was used to make flags and banners to decorate temples, streets and homes.

Today, professional craftsmen use awls, chisels and blades to make intricate designs depicting flowers, birds, crosses, skeletons, historic figures and even words. They design the pattern on a piece of paper and then cut through it and as many as 50 sheets of tissue paper with their special tools.

In a simple form, *papel picado* is done as *papel cortado* (cut paper) and is made a lot like a paper snowflake. For children ages 3 and up. Be sure to ask permission from an adult before using scissors.

Materials:

- Colored tissue paper or textured thin paper
(Use squares or rectangles 8x8 inches to 10x10 inches)
- Scissors
- String
- Clear tape

Instructions:

1. Fold tissue paper a number of times. It should be folded edge to edge, not corner to corner. For younger children, don't fold too many times or it will be difficult for them to cut.
2. Cut shapes from the paper. To keep the square/rectangle shape, don't cut off any corners. Suggested shapes to cut: diamonds, hearts, circles.
3. Unfold. Create a fun edge along the sides. Edges may be straight, scalloped, zig-zagged or fringed.
4. Fold over the top 1/4 inch of the papel cortado over a long piece of string and tape to make a pocket
5. Add additional sheets to form a long decorative banner or streamer.

